

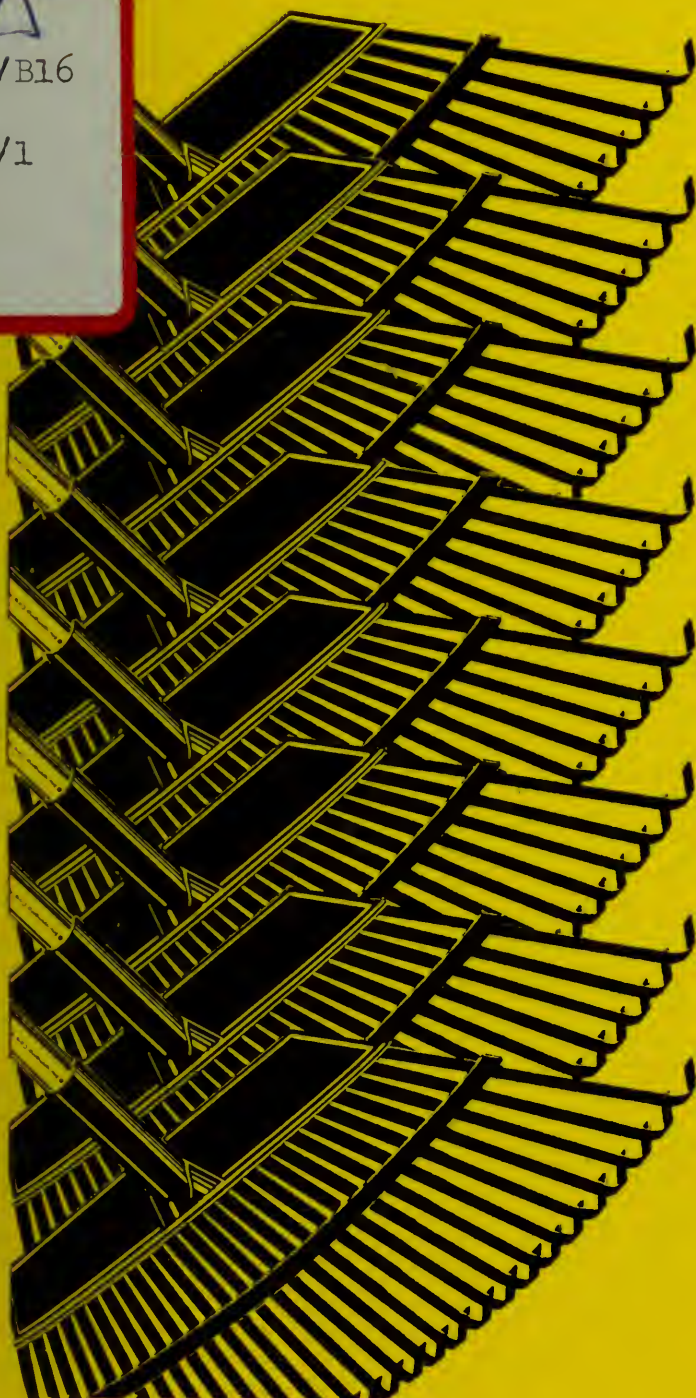
278 102
GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS
DEPARTMENT
BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Boston Common Sense Program

gov. 96-257

An Alternative Sentencing Program

△
M3/B16
EV
83/1



Common Sense

A Real Alternative

Sponsored by the City of Boston's Environment Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and the Boston Municipal Court.

What is Common Sense?

- The Common Sense Program is an alternative sentencing program for selected non-violent offenders.
- Common Sense provides an opportunity for offenders to perform public service work in areas of downtown Boston such as the Boston Common in lieu of a fine, restitution or going to jail.
- Common Sense provides a community service and helps to improve the appearance and condition of downtown Boston for the greater enjoyment of Boston's citizens.

Who is Eligible?

Non-violent offenders who are referred by the Boston Municipal Court are eligible for this program.

How Does One Participate?

- Selected non-violent offenders can participate in this program after being initially screened by the Probation Department of the Boston Municipal Court. This screening will entail a review of the offender's criminal record and the circumstances surrounding the present offense.

- If the department determines that the offender may be appropriate for referral to Common Sense, this is so indicated to the court.
- The presiding judge will consider this recommendation and other pertinent data and then decide whether or not to permit participation in the program.
- Finally, program supervisors will interview the offender to determine his/her attitude toward the program and their suitability for the kind of work involved.

What Kind of Work is Done?

Participants of the Common Sense Program will perform a variety of maintenance tasks in areas of downtown Boston such as the Boston Common including sweeping sidewalks, raking grass and picking up litter. Direct supervision will be provided to participants by the City of Boston Environment Department.

How Long Does the Program Last?

Participation in the program is for a limited time to be determined by the court. Performance in the program will also be monitored. Participants who fail to cooperate with the program will be returned to the court for other appropriate action.

Common Sense

An Alternative Sentencing Program jointly administered by the City of Boston Environment Department, Eugenie Beal, *Director* and the Boston Municipal Court, Judge Harry J. Elam, *Chief Justice*. Technical support provided by: The City of Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Robert R. McCoy, *Commissioner*.

City of Boston

Environment Department
Room 813, City Hall
Boston, MA 02201

For Information Call:

Arnold Sapenter
Environment Department
(617) 725-3850 or
Rino Modica
Boston Municipal Court
(617) 725-8432

Arnold Sapenter
Program Manager

Karen Blandino, Paul Rainey
Program Supervisors